

HONORING CHIEF EDWARD SWITALSKI

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, today, I wish to honor the 38-year public service career of Comstock, MI, fire chief Edward Switalski. Known for his bravery and devotion to his family and community, Chief Switalski was killed in the line of duty on June 14, 2017, having been struck and killed by a motorist on Interstate 94 in Kalamazoo County, as he was responding to a previous car crash at that site. He is survived by his wife, Holly, and two daughters, Alison and Emily.

Chief Switalski's dream of becoming a firefighter arrived early. As a child, he volunteered to clean equipment and perform other tasks for his local fire department. His career began as a part-time paramedic at Pleasantview Fire District in Illinois in 1982; while there, he rose to become battalion chief before retiring after 32 years of service and moving to Michigan to be closer to his daughters.

While in Illinois, Chief Switalski won numerous awards and citations, including one for running into the basement of a burning building in an attempt to rescue one of his colleagues. The chief was also a compassionate volunteer who traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild the community in the wake of the devastating Hurricane Katrina.

After his relocation to Michigan, Switalski became the chief of the Comstock, MI, fire department in 2013. Chief Switalski quickly became known as a visionary leader who would often pick up open firefighting shifts in his small department. Active in the community, the chief was involved in numerous organizations and was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo.

Colleagues have paid numerous tributes to Chief Switalski. A former chief of his remarked he "did not know anyone who enjoyed being a firefighter more than he did." The public safety chaplain of a neighboring fire department said that, on June 14, "we lost a great man on Earth that day, but we gained one in heaven." The leader of a local ambulance service called Chief Switalski "an extraordinary man who had a deep compassion for his family and the communities that he served. He was a man of integrity, who believed in doing the right thing."

It was entirely appropriate that United States and State of Michigan flags flew at half-staff on all State buildings on the day of the chief's funeral.

Chief Switalski was a brave and selfless public servant who was taken from our world much too soon. The tremendous outpouring of support demonstrated at his funeral service is a reminder of the risks undertaken every day by our first responders and the gratitude the public has for their vital work.

TRIBUTE TO LOU D'ALLESANDRO

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Senator Lou D'Allesandro and congratulate him on his 20 years of service in the New Hampshire Senate and to honor his extraordinary career of public service to the State of New Hampshire.

Senator D'Allesandro is serving his 10th term in the New Hampshire Senate representing Manchester and previously served three terms on the New Hampshire Executive Council and two terms in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. Serving with distinction, he has always sought to best represent his constituents and is well known in New Hampshire for his leadership, his willingness to work constructively to better the Granite State, and for the responsiveness and care he has shown throughout his years in public service.

In addition to his many legislative achievements, Senator D'Allesandro served our country honorably in uniform in the U.S. Marine Corps and is an accomplished educator. Senator D'Allesandro was instrumental in getting NCAA status for SNHU and has remained extremely involved in New Hampshire education, having served as chairman of the New England Board of Higher Education. Appointed the first basketball coach in Southern New Hampshire University history in 1963, Senator D'Allesandro led the SNHU Penmen to three straight titles and compiled a record of 114-40 in 7 years of coaching collegiate athletics. He holds honorary doctorates from Franklin Pierce University, Daniel Webster College, and the New Hampshire Institute of Art, as well as degrees from the University of New Hampshire, Rivier University, New England College, and the New Hampshire Institute of Art. He is a member of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, Inc., and is a director of the New Hampshire Hockey Hall of Fame.

As one may gather, Senator D'Allesandro is passionate about bettering the lives of New Hampshire's young people through education, and I sincerely thank him for his years supporting, in so many ways, our colleges and universities. I also thank his wonderful wife, Pat, who has stood by Lou's side and, in doing so, has also served the people of New Hampshire. I am honored to call Lou D'Allesandro a friend, and as Senator for New Hampshire, I join my voice with the voices of so many other Granite Staters to express gratitude to Senator D'Allesandro for his extraordinary commitment to public service, his selfless contributions to higher education, and the positive impact he has made on the State of New Hampshire. Of course, I join all Granite Staters in wishing Lou a great American day.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MICHELS

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, Team Wyden will shortly lose one of its

stalwarts, but before John Michels of my Portland office takes his well-deserved retirement after two decades of service to the people of Oregon, I want to take just a few minutes to recognize his many, many contributions.

John joined my office in the late 1990s through a work-study program run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. He had previously worked in construction, and he served as a jet engine mechanic in the U.S. Navy before coming to my office, so suffice it to say that he was no stranger to long hours and tough assignments.

As a member of Team Wyden, John put his shoulder to the wheel to help other veterans when backlogs, bureaucracy, or red tape held up the care or the recognition they had earned. In his years of service, John has managed thousands of cases for Oregon constituents struggling with one Federal agency or another.

John has also always been a practical soul and has a passion for tinkering and fixing things. He brought these skills to bear as our resident IT expert and computer whisperer in Oregon.

Anybody who has worked in the government can tell you it can be tough. The pace can be grueling, the cynicism can be frustrating, and the bureaucracy can be maddening, but as John will attest, there are few more rewarding experiences than helping a veteran receive overdue recognition or bringing a new VA facility to a rural community or ensuring seniors and people with disabilities receive the Social Security benefits they so richly deserve.

John is not the type of person to trumpet his service from the rooftops, but he has an enormous heart and a passion for public service. The bottom line is that John has found ways to help me help countless people across Oregon.

Now, as John knows, we never really let anybody leave Team Wyden, so I am sure we will still call upon his wealth of knowledge and experience. In the meantime, I want to thank him for all the help he has provided over these past two decades. I have been fortunate to have him on my team, and we will all miss him greatly.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF CHEYENNE, WYOMING

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I want to take a moment to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the city of Cheyenne, WY.

The city of Cheyenne is an irreplaceable catalyst in Wyoming's birth and development. Christened on July 4, 1867, Cheyenne was named after the Cheyenne Tribe found in the Dakota territory. As the population jumped from 400 to 3,000 and beyond, Cheyenne earned nickname "The Magic City of the Plains" in reference to how it seemingly sprouted overnight and kept